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54-410

Chief, Coordination, Operations and Policy Staff      22 August 1950

Assistant Director for Operations

Plans of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for the Exploitation of Captured Documents

References:

- a. JIG 456/5 dated 2 May 1950 - subject: Joint Intelligence Policies for the Exploitation of Intelligence (Captured Documents) (copy attached)
- b. Our memorandum to COAPS, same subject, dated 26 July 1950 (original attached)
- c. Our memorandum to COAPS, dated 31 July 1950, subject: J.I.C. 456/5 etc. (reporting informal action)

1. On 9 August 1950, a further discussion of this subject was held between Mr. Kirkpatrick (Acting AD/00), Mr. Bagnall (FDD) and Lt. Col. Richmond and Colonel Bassett, representing the Joint Intelligence Group (JCS). There were indications of embarrassment over the use of the term "at the national level" in connection with the proposed establishment of a joint documents center, (reference a, pp. 1, 3, 5, 9, etc.) and it was explained that the phrase should be read to mean "in the zone of the interior." In addition, the JIG representatives requested that the JCS paper (reference a.) "should not be referred to" in any CIA action on this subject, and they recommended that our interests be represented through continuing working-level liaison with the ad hoc committee responsible for the preparation of the documents manual, rather than by more formal CIA action on a policy level. It was agreed that Mr. Bagnall should maintain contact with the committee, and should provide information on CIA requirements for captured documents for inclusion in the appropriate section of the manual.

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JCS and DIA review(s) completed.

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3. In view of our interest in captured documents (reference b.), as well as the responsibility of the agency for the coordination of intelligence activities [redacted] and our potential functions in the field of collection and analysis of Soviet equipment (SOVIAT project), we believe that formal action should be taken to ensure recognition of such interests by the armed services in wartime. We also believe that CIA representatives should participate in the formulation of plans for these activities, and doubt that this can be accomplished solely by informal liaison on a working level.

4. It is therefore recommended that a memorandum along the lines of Enclosure 2 be dispatched to the Joint Intelligence Committee with regard to captured documents. Since military planning for "people and things" seems less advanced, no formal action is recommended at this time, but it is suggested that steps be taken by COAPS to determine the status of comparable JCS action on these subjects.

GEORGE G. CAREY

Enclos:

cc: Addressee - Orig. & 1  
JPPD - 1  
OO - 2

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Enclosure 2

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Deputy Director for Intelligence,  
The Joint Staff

Reference: JIC 456/5 dated 2 May 1950 - subject: Joint Intelligence Policies for the Exploitation of Intelligence (Captured Documents)

1. It has come to our attention that plans for the wartime exploitation of captured documents in a centralized inter-service documents center "at a national level" are currently being developed by your staff, with the approval of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

2. Since captured documents may contain intelligence information of interest not only to the military services but also to other intelligence agencies, we are concerned with the adequate coordination of such plans from the standpoint of national intelligence. We believe that coordination should be effected during the formulation of policy rather than at a later date, in order to prevent the establishment of conflicting procedures and directives on this subject. Although the primary interest of the armed services in captured enemy military documents is recognized, we feel that provision should also be made for the requirements of other non-military intelligence agencies and government departments for information from captured documents. During World War II it was found that such requirements could rarely be fulfilled through "liaison" channels, with the result that various uncoordinated documents collection and exploitation activities were established by different agencies, not only in the U.S. but in operational theaters as well. We understand and concur in your efforts to avoid comparable confusion by advance planning, and we believe that active participation by representatives of this agency in the formulation of such plans might assist you in attaining this end.

3. It would therefore be appreciated if you would inform us of the present status of the plans for documents activities in wartime, and indicate your preferences regarding channels for further coordination of the program.

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